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GENERAL ORDER TO INSPECTORS.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., May 13, 1896.

It is the desire of this Department that the influence of all employees should be used, so far as is warranted by the law, for the purpose of securing the humane treatment of animals in transportation and in the stock yards. Depriving animals of food and drink for unusual periods, and beating and worrying them, are practices calculated to make the animals feverish and their meat unwholesome, and should be discountenanced and prevented. You will, therefore, give such instructions to your subordinates as will insure careful treatment of any animals which they may be called upon to handle, and as will also lead them to use their influence for the same end with all other persons with whom they come in contact.

You will please make an investigation of the manner in which animals are transported and handled by the railroad companies and stock yards which come under your observation, and make such suggestions as may occur to you, with a view to improving the service and protecting animals from undue suffering or cruelty. Injured animals which are evidently suffering severe pain should be promptly reported to the humane societies, unless the owner or the stock yard company properly cares for them within a reasonable time.

(Signed)

CHAS. W. DABNEY, Jr.,
Acting Secretary.

